



the **RARRA RAG**

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NO. 7

Amateur Television at March 4 Meeting

By Tim Magee, WB2KAO
Vice President, RARA

The regular monthly meeting of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association will be held on March 4, 2005 at the Henrietta Fire Company #1 on East Henrietta Rd. at Lehigh Station Rd. Besides the usual business meeting there will be a demonstration and discussion on amateur television (ATV). The presentation will be conducted by a panel of three fellow amateurs, Bill McDonnell (KG2F), Bob Erskine (W2NVZ), and George Lloyd (N2UIO). Bill will provide details on the construction and operation of the ATV repeater, followed by the demonstration.

We appreciate these folks volunteering to present this program. It will be very entertaining and informative. See you there.

Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 9, 8:30 AM at the Monroe County PSTC, Suite 200, 1190 Scottsville Road.

This is the county's planning sessions regarding emergency Operations and contingency planning and everyone is invited to attend. If you attend, please sign in as a radio amateur as a show of good faith and interest on our part.

Immediately following at 9:30 and at the same location, will be a meeting of the All Hazard Radio Project Prepare. This is a public alerting and Emergency preparedness initiative of the Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee. Again the public is invited.

Public Service Events On The Rise

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Coordinator

It seems the great reputation of HAMs capability to perform essential communications has spread far and wide. The list below has been growing rapidly. These events represent a great combination of community interests and needs. The events are varied; some require just a two-meter handheld and other events cover areas that make a mobile rig essential for adequate coverage. And, the frosting on the cake, multiple modes of operation are useful in serving many of these events. This presents the opportunity to learn more about or brush up on Packet, APRS or multi-frequency operation skills.

Certainly there is something for everyone. Endurance events, automobile racing, working with youth, sporting events, walks, bicycle tours and more make up the mix of events. "And yes, there are some that we will be cooperating with other HAM clubs to complete the event."

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service endorses these events as training events. Participation in these events is reported to the ARRL to verify ongoing training activities. If you are already an ARES member or interested in participating, active participation in two or three of these events will help maintain your trained and ready status.

(Public Service continued on page5)

RaRa MEETING

March 4, 2005

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1

3129 East Henrietta Road

Amateur Television

the RARA RAG

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Sidebands

"Amateur Radio in the News"

by Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Bill Morine, N2COP, informed me of an interesting article in his local daily, the Wilmington (NC) *Star-News*. Daniel Terdiman of the *New York Times* discussed the history of uses for Altoid tins, some a matter of convenience and others illegal. The author interviewed recent MIT graduate Limor Fried, N1UEO. She said, "Ham radio operators have been using tin boxes for a long time. They block electromagnetic interference, and it's protected from spurious RF waves." *Star-News*, February 10, 2005. (via the *ARRL PR Reflector*)

Michael Braun, K3LNT, has appeared in the Jeopardy Teen Tournament. Michael, a 16-year-old high school junior from Silver Spring, MD, currently holds a general license and enjoys operating on HF. As of this writing he has done well, qualifying for the Jeopardy semi-finals. Via the *ARRL PR Reflector*.

Tom Breedlove, N4TBM, of Winchester VA was the subject of a feature article in his local paper. The article described how Tom started out in radio when he installed a CB set in his car in the mid-1970's. Later, when Tom yearned for DX, he became a ham at age 59. Now he has three towers in the yard ranging from 30 to 55 feet supporting 7 antennas. Tom confessed that his biggest fear is lightning. "And when I have any inkling of a pending thunderstorm, I unhook the equipment in the house," Breedlove said. *The Winchester Star*, January 24, 2005.

Remember my article last month about *Time* reporter Lev Grossman, who referred to amateur radio as a "faintly embarrassing hobby"? The following is a pithy letter to the editor that appeared in *Time*:

"Ham Radio Relief: Building Bridges". "I was offended by the characterization of ham radio as a 'faintly embarrassing hobby' in the article 'Blogs Have Their Day' [Dec. 27--Jan. 3]. Ham radio operators - I have been one for 47 years--provided emergency communication after the Indian Ocean tsunami. They have supplied similar public service in many other situations, including the Florida hurricanes. Our systems include thousands of repeaters that receive and transmit throughout the U.S., connections with the Internet and more. Ham radio bridges the gap between countries and peoples; there are more than 750,000 operators in the U.S. and many thousands more overseas. JOHN RAYDO Kansas City, Mo."

Time, January 17, 2005.

RARA Explorer Posts 621 and 622, Part 1 of 2

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Education Chairman

RARA operated two Explorer posts this year in cooperation with Eastman Kodak. Each post hosted about 16 youth and was highly successful. About 20 different volunteers were involved with this project. Our Explorer posts expose youth to the technologies and careers in electronics and telecommunications borrowing on amateur radio experiences. Participants range in age from 14 to 17 years. Our sessions avoided lectures in favor of hands-on activities. One post, 622, was conducted as an amateur radio license course.

Sponsorship and promotional announcements of our Explorer posts was pursued by the Boy Scouts of America Otetiana Council and by Eastman Kodak. About 300 youth and parents attended a kickoff event in early November 2004. At that event we addressed the objectives and content of our two Explorer posts and demonstrated aspects of amateur radio. Signups at that point essentially filled our post openings.

Both posts started shortly after Thanksgiving 2004 and continued with weekly sessions through the end of February. We met in the Kodak ARC club station at Kodak Park. It was gratifying to see a high attendance by these youth throughout the three months of our programs.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL played a special roll. In addition to attending most of the sessions, Keith was the new Coordinator of Explorers at Eastman Kodak. Needless to say, we had an excellent position with Kodak to expedite the offering of these Explorer posts. We also appreciate the help of Kodak Amateur Radio Club WB2WXQ, particularly George Masny (KA2GPJ) and Charlie Escrivá (KB2SOZ) for allowing use of the station as our meeting place and for supplying copies and overhead projector materials. Peter Fournia coordinated the instructors and scheduled the content for both posts.

This is our third year with Post 621 which was titled Electronics and Communications. It held 12 weekly 2 hour sessions on Wednesday evenings. All of these sessions are hands-on. The Explorers learned and used most common electronic components. They used a VOM and applied it to verify calculations of V, I and Ohms in basic circuits. They had two sessions in building and using oscillator circuits. They built an audio amplifier and measured gain and viewed waveforms using oscilloscopes. We had two sessions using

robots and manipulated software to control them. The explorers were exposed to satellite technology and UHF/Microwave technologies. Two sessions were used to build and experiment with a Ramsey Electronics kit. Overall, the programs give explorers a good insight into careers in electronics and telecommunications. References to amateur radio were frequently made throughout the program.

Five instructors were involved with planning and delivering the post 621 modules. They were Greg Michels, KC2GXV, Bill Kraft, WB2IHM, Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, Jon Dickason, N2JAC, and Peter Fournia, W2SKY. Seven additional hams were involved with planning and assisting with these modules. They were Dick Andrews, N2GDR, Dave Hassett, K2SQI, Jim Reilich, WB2YJH, Mike Moore, N1NM and Keith Freeberg, N2BEL. We have 2 more sessions before post 621 concludes. We anticipate that members of the Rochester VHF Group will be helping with our final session.

The second post that we offered was post 622 which was an amateur radio license course. This is the first time we offered this course. We were pleased to see about 16 Explorers sign up for it with a high attendance rate through the 11 sessions. Also gratifying is the interest of several parents who occasionally attended the sessions and plan to get a license.

Post 622 followed the ARRL progression for obtaining a Technician license. Because sessions were 1 1/2 hours long we had time to cover material in more depth than the regular RARA license course. The RARA volunteer examiners coordinated by Cheryl Joyce, AB2NU conducted license testing on February 15.

Post 622 met on Tuesday evenings. Most of the instructors were members of the Xerox ARC led by Mike Ishler, KE2LU. In addition to Mike were Bob Karz, K2OID, Larry Lavery, WW2J, Chuck Blocker, KC2IQV and Peter Fournia, W2SKY.

This article will continue next month: At that time we will have pictures and further results of the Explorer posts. We will also cover expectations for continuing the posts next year. Readers wanting to see more details about the topics and schedule of our programs can view it on line at www.rochesterham.org/Post621/RaRaExplorersPage.htm.

RaRa Hotline

(585) 442-0587

24 hours a day

March Calendar

- 4 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall #1, East Henrietta Rd. at Lehigh Stn.
- 9 - BARK - 7:00 PM, monthly construction meeting at KC2JKV, 1144 Peck Rd, Hilton
- 10 - RAPS - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at RIT, Bldg.-76, Room 2150
- 11 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 15 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd.
- 18 - RRRR - Annual Auction 7:30 PM, Pittsford Town Hall-Basement Meeting Room
- 19 - RaRa Testing - Room 2150, Bldg. 76 RIT, Registration 8:30 AM
- 23 - BARK - 7:00 PM monthly business meeting at Seymour Public Library, Brockport

RRRA NEWS

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY

March brings to us the RRRR Annual Auction. This will be held in the basement of the Pittsford Town Hall on the 18th of March. Normal auction rules apply. If you don't know what those are, contact any local ham that has been to one for the minor rules that are in place.

RRRA is planning to have a Hamfest/Fleamarket for the first time. We are still in need of people to be dedicated to help. Our goal is to have 12 people to do all the jobs necessary. We have a sweet deal possibility and I cannot commit the club to a site until we have the committee in place. To sign up to help, please visit our website at <http://www.rrra.5u.com>.

This time of year also brings the need for help for the talkin station that RRRR has run every year. This is a project that the club continues to do in Ray's WA2MYG's honor. We need people to run the talkin for as much time as you need to rest your feet during the hamfest. We provide all training, radio, mentor's as well as food and drink. Come give us a hand at the RRRR trailer. Booth help is also needed. Contact any officer of the club for info on either of these items.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, March 1985

by Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

ARRL restructuring was the featured topic at the March RaRa meeting held at the 40/8 Club on University Avenue. Presenting was the WNY Section Manager, Bill Thompson, W2MTA, who also touched upon the ARRL Special Service Club program of which RaRa was a participating member.

The Rochester Radio Repeater Assn. announced their annual auction for Friday, March 15th. Coinciding with Kodak Bonus day was no accident as happy bidders, at the Police and Fire Academy building venue, had lots of cash in their pockets.

This issue was also filled with information on the results of the January VHF contest, historically a local Rochester favorite operating event. High single operator score went to K8ZES/2, with the multi-operator effort honors going to the RF Communication ARC, WB2PSI. Highest UHF score went to K2YCO. An additional award, recognizing 25 years of exceptional participation, likewise went to Chuck Oneske, K2YCO. Piedmont Airlines advertised that a special \$98 round trip rate was available for Dayton Hamfest weekend. Writing for the Antique Wireless Association (AWA) was Steve Sykes, KA2KGM. Steve reported on the just completed Old Tyme contest where participants use equipment of 1929 or earlier. Active were KA2KGM, W2ICE, W2LC, K2MP and others.

Last month's Winter Funfest at Mendon Ponds Park was declared a great success by all attending. It was definitely Winter with fresh snow making things festive if not a bit on the cold side. You could easily warm up with a serving of hot chili provided by Dave Bernheisel's wife.

In his monthly column called *Cop's Corner*, by Howie Davies, N2CUN, of the Rochester PD, he reported on the laws covering mobiles equipped with radios capable of receiving police frequencies. Doing so is a misdemeanor with a fine and/or jail sentence. He further explained that licensed radio amateurs are exempt from this law. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported that the public service list for the Summer is filling up with seven events firm to date.

From the advertisers you would find Michael Rice, KB2SG, Attorney at Law, offering general services. A Want Ad offered a mint Collins S-line station from Ollie, K2BBK.

Public Service cont. from page 1.

These events are not physically rigorous and typically do not require the entire day to complete. The average event takes about five and half hours to complete and most are on weekends.

A few are ideally focused for our growing community of senior HAMs who now are busier than ever after 'retiring' from the mundane workday world. Yes, a few are on weekdays. And yes, we can even utilize a few HAMs right from their home QTH for one very special event.

Check the web sites below for more details or just give me a call to chat and find out more about these interesting and fun opportunities. Some other sources of general information on these events are found at the web sites below.

Check

http://www.rochesterham.org/public_service.htm or
<http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org/modules.php?name=Calendar> for regular updates.

A handy list of Public Service Events and details will be available at all RARA and Monroe County EmComm meetings. You can use this handy list to easily note which events you signed up for and use to mark your calendar at home. An electronic copy of this list and its updates is available by sending a brief note to n2bel@frontiernet.net to request you be put on the list.

Mall Walk @ The Market Place – March 13, 2005

STPR – June 4, 2005

Tour de Cure – June 12, 2005

Cycling the Erie Canal – July 10 – 17, 2005

Musselman Triathlon – July 17, 2005

Stuart Horse Trials – July 23, 2005

Empire State Games – July 27-31, 2005

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – August 10-14, 2005

Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour – August 20 & 21, 2005

Corning Alzheimer's Walk – September 11, 2005

Canandaigua Alzheimer's Walk – September 11, 2005

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – September 17, 2005

Waterloo Alzheimer's Walk – September 18, 2005

Rochester Alzheimer's Walk, Rochester – September 18, 2005

Rochester Alzheimer's 5 K Run – September 18, 2005

Finger Lakes Triathlon, Canandaigua – September 18, 2005

America's Walk for Diabetes – October 1, 2005

Wine Glass Marathon, Bath to Corning – October 2, 2005

Scouting Jamboree On The Air -- October 15 & 16, 2005

Pumpkin Patrol (NYSP Troop 'T') – October 30 & 31, 2005

Contact Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, by calling 585-254-0722 or email: n2bel@frontiernet.net to sign up, request directions to the event and/or to request a list of suggested items to bring for personal comfort and improved communications capability. Hamfests are coming up quick so now is a good time to add items to your wish list.

Public Service season starts early

by Keith Freeberg, N2BEL

Imagine a bright, warm day in March wearing a 'volunteer' T-shirt and feeling oh so warm and relaxed. OK, sounds pretty far fetched unless we are inside at The Market Place Mall, helping out the American Diabetes Association "WinterWalk."

We have been asked to provide safety and staff linking communications for this event. It will be a short, pleasant assignment, all indoors. The event will start in the center court of The Market Place Mall and proceed to past every shop in the mall. Our operators will be posted along the walk route.

Date: Sunday, March 13, 2005

Start Time: 08:00 (arrive slightly earlier for breakfast)

Approximate finish: 11:30

Where: The Market Place (formerly Marketplace Mall)

Talk in: 146.55 simplex (+ or – QRM)

Recommended Equipment: HT, spare battery and 'Amateur Radio' vest

Event Timing: Registration 8 - 9, Walk 9 – 11

Operators Needed: 5

Contact: Keith Freeberg, N2BEL: 585-254-0722 or n2bel@frontiernet.net

More than 18.2 million Americans have diabetes. It is the fifth leading cause of death by disease in America. People with diabetes suffer a greater risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness and foot or leg amputations. The American Diabetes Association is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected with diabetes through education and research, which will ultimately lead to the prevention and cure of diabetes.

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RDXA Program March 15

By Rick Mintz, W1TY
President RDXA

Speaker: Rus Healy, K2UA

Program: Current Events in the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee

Date & Time: March 15, 2005 - 7:30pm

Location: Gander Mountain, 300 Jay Scutti Blvd. Henrietta

Additional information about RDXA can be found at: <http://www.rdxa.com>.

Or send email to: rdxa@rochester.rr.com

The meeting is open to all Radio Amateurs.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

by Jack Tripp, W2JAT

The deadline for submitting applications for the fifth annual RaRa Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 2005. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" has been established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF, William Buchan, W2OMV, William Resch, K4VOS and David Stewart, K2ZCD. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RaRa and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at 442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application are available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> or from one of the officers.

Additional "tax exempt donations" in memory W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS, K2ZCD or any other silent key may be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333.

**April RAG Deadline
March 11, 2005**

.79 Repeater adds PL

by Rick Booth, K2SA

Starting the first of the year the 146.79 repeater, K2SA/R has implemented the use of a PL tone, 110.9hz. If your transmitter does not use the PL tone you will not be able to key up the repeater.

Something to remember....PL just keeps unwanted signals from keying up the repeater transmitter. The interference is still there and at times it will be a heterodyne under the users signal. It will also appear as strange squeals depending on how it mixes in the repeater receiver. It is possible that a Canadian signal could even be stronger than a handheld or a weak mobile running PL. In that case, the user would not be able to key the repeater. I listen on both the input and output of the repeater and it gives a pretty good indication of what is happening. Strong wind still affects "79" even with PL!!

HELP WANTED:

Two-way radio technician. Component level troubleshooting. Comfortable installing new equipment in vehicles and offices. Experience in SMD, transmission lines, connectors, system diagnostic troubleshooting techniques helpful. Good customer relations skills. E-mail resume and/or letter of interest to

sales@tadacom.com.

TADA Communications, Inc. 202 East Ridge Road, Rochester, NY 585-342-0716

Area Radio Club Contacts:

Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)

Brad Armstrong, W1YX w1yx@arrl.net

Rochester DX Association (RDXA)

Rick Mintz, W1TY w1ty@arrl.net

Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

Brad Allen, KB2CHY kb2chy@frontiernet.net

Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)

Dave Hallidy, K2DH k2dh@frontiernet.net

Brockport Amateur Radio Klub (BARK)

Lou Kline, K2LKK k2lkk@barkarc.org

XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

Ned Asam, W2NED w2ned@frontiernet.net

Drumlines Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Doug Peeso, KB2ROP dpeeso@hotmail.com

Monroe County ARES

Judy Stonehill, N2KXS jstonehill@worldnet.att.net

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All Elements needed
to complete a license class.

**3rd Saturday of each
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Registration - 8:30AM
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**Room 2150, Building 76
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**Contact Cheryl Joyce, AB2NU
For any special needs (585) 533-9252**

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